#### Virginia Coastal Zone Management Project

#### Final Deliverable Products Report Task 42, Technical Assistance Program



#### **Crater Planning District Commission**

November 15, 2014





This project was funded, in part, by the Virginia Coastal Management Program at the Department of Environmental Quality through Grant # NA13NOS419 of the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, as amended.

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#### **Project Summary**

The Technical Assistance Program includes various activities coordinated and provided by Crater Planning District Commission staff. All work relating to the products listed in the 2013 Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program Grant is summarized below. Any additional environmental tasks completed during the past year have also been outlined.

#### Product #1 – Environmental Impact Reviews

Commission staff reviewed 24 Environmental Impact Reports during the past year. The projects were varied and included military applications, higher education planning, a quarry, a hospital, biosolid applications, water withdrawals, pollution discharge, and grant funding applications.

#### <u>Product #2 – Report on Coastal Meetings</u>

Five (5) quarterly meetings were held during the past year (2013 - 2014): October 24, January 10, March 14, June 25, and September 24. In addition to local government and Crater PDC staff, representatives from the following entities attended at least once: Fort Lee, The Virginia Office of Environmental Education, The Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, VCU, and the Friends of the Lower Appomattox River (FOLAR). The Crater PDC also attended Semi-Annual Coastal PDC meetings on November 26, 2013 and June 12, 2014, and the Coastal Team Meeting on September 30, 2014.

#### <u>Product #3 – Coastal Training</u>

The Commission sponsored several training sessions on the following topics: 1) Practical Grant Seeking, 2) Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner Program, 3) Virginia Outdoors Plan 2014 Update, 4) Beaches to Bluegrass Trail, 5) Activities of FOLAR, 6) Rural Transportation Planning, 7) Southern Crater Region Solid Waste Plan, and 8) VCU Development Tracker.

#### Product #4 – FOLAR (Friends of the Lower Appomattox River)

The Commission staff continued its ongoing support for FOLAR by providing financial administration, meeting facilitation, website maintenance (<a href="www.folar-va.org">www.folar-va.org</a>), participation in river events, map production, office space, and grants administration. FOLAR performed approximately 15 local clean-ups and held its 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Battle or Paddle. It also secured approximately \$38,000 in grants from various sources. It hired permanent part-time staff to handle its administrative duties.

#### Product #5 – Benefits Accrued From Prior CZM Grants

Commission staff maintained our Appomattox River Interpretive guide and online application: <a href="http://www.craterpdc.org/webmaps/arig/">http://www.craterpdc.org/webmaps/arig/</a>.

#### Additional Environmental Matters

Commission staff participated in several other environmental activities including the Richmond Area Environmental Education Network, Performance Contracting, Chesapeake Bay TMDL Planning, solid waste reporting, the Albemarle-Chowan Roundtable, the Middle James Roundtable, the Chesapeake Conservancy, floodplain analysis, and brownfield redevelopment.

#### Environmental Impact Review List Crater Planning District Commission

ID NUMBER	<u>PROJECT</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
EPA-R3-CBP-14-01	Chesapeake Bay Program Web Support	
EPA-R3-CBP-14-02	Chesapeake Bay Water Clarity and Vegetation Standards	
	Safe Water Drinking Act	
	Chesapeake Bay Journal 2014	
VPA00584	Synagro Central LLC	Prince George & Surry Counties
VA0003492	Hercules Incorporated Aqualon Division	Hopewell, VA
DEQ #14-011F	Virginia National Guard Cultural Resources Plan	
DEQ #14-040S	Ernst Hall Renovation - Richard Bland College	Petersburg, VA
	FY2014 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grant Application	
EPA-R3-CBP-14-04	Chesapeake Bay Nutrient Sediment Reduction Program	
	Pesticide Performance Partnership Grant Application FY15 - 17	
	EPA ILSR Composting for Community	
VPA00818	Synagro Central LLC	Surry County, VA
VPA00822	Synagro Central LLC	Surry County, VA
VPA00808	Synagro Central LLC	Sussex County, VA
EPA-R3-EAD-14-03	Penn State Regional Wetlands Development Grant	
DEQ #14-119S	VDOT AHQ Salt Dome	Prince George County, VA
DEQ #13-0884	Jack Quarry Expansion	Dinwiddie County, VA
	Army 2020 Force Structure Realignment	
DEQ #14-136F	Southside Regional Medical Center Parking Lot Expansion	Petersburg, VA
DEQ #13-0957	Greensville County Raw Water Reservoir and Intake	Greensville County, VA
FAA 14-130F	Emporia-Greensville Airport Runway Modifications	Greensville County, VA
VA0080390	Sussex Courthouse Complex	Sussex County, VA
	Humanitarian Demining Training Center	Fort Lee, VA

#### **Crater Planning Directors Meeting**

#### Crater PDC Conference Room 1964 Wakefield Street Petersburg, Virginia

Noon, Thursday, October 24, 2013

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. Practical Grant Seeking
  Mike Foreman Director of the Virginia Office of
  Environmental Education
- 3. Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner Program <a href="https://www.planvirginia.com">www.planvirginia.com</a> potential training hosted by Crater PDC
- 4. Rural Transportation Planning Update
- 5. Other Local and Regional Planning Issues
- 6. Next Meeting Date January, 2014
- 7. Adjournment

Minutes of the Crater Planning Directors meeting held on Thursday, October 24, 2013 in the Crater PDC Conference Room, 1964 Wakefield Street, Petersburg, Virginia.

Attendees: Mike Foreman, Virginia Office of Environmental Education; Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie County; Douglas Miles, Sarah Jencik, Prince George County; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Rhonda Mack, Surry County; Fritz Brandt, Fort Lee; Michelle Peters, Petersburg; Tevya Griffin, Hopewell; Mark Bittner, Crater PDC.

#### Welcome and Introductions

Mark Bittner called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

#### **Practical Grant Seeking**

Mr. Foreman, Director of the Virginia Office of Environmental Education, presented information on how applicants can best seek and administer grant funding for projects.

Mr. Foreman stressed applicants should seek grants that are in line with the mission and goals of their organizations. They should not seek funding from programs outside their scope. This could alter how applicants typically manage their activities and possibly harm their objectives.

Mr. Foreman also demonstrated the WizeHive grant management software program (www.wizehive.com).

#### Virginia Certified Planning Commissioner Program

Mr. Bittner presented information on how local Planning Commissioners can receive professional certification from the Virginia Certified Planning Commission Program (www.planvirginia.com) at Virginia Tech.

Mr. Bittner stated many program classes are held in places difficult for Crater PDC Commissioners to travel. He asked if local representatives would be interested in attending classes if they could be hosted at the Crater PDC. Everyone in attendance appeared to express their support for this idea.

#### **Rural Transportation Planning**

Mr. Bittner gave a brief update on current Rural Transportation activities for 2013 and 2014. Mr. Bittner stated priority lists had not been submitted by some localities. Mr. Bittner stated that, at the conclusion of this process, the top few projects from each locality would be

placed within a regional group of projects. This regional group would then be ranked by the full Rural Technical Committee.

#### Other Local and Regional Planning Issues

Mr. Bittner offered to let attendees share any other planning issues they wished. Nothing was presented.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January, 2014.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

#### **Crater Planning Directors Meeting**

#### Crater PDC Conference Room 1964 Wakefield Street Petersburg, Virginia

Noon, Friday, January 10, 2014

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- Beaches to Bluegrass Trail
   Jennifer Wampler Trails Coordinator
   Virginia DCR
- 3. Southern Crater Region Solid Waste Plan Current Status Update
- 4. Rural Transportation Planning Update
- 5. Other Local and Regional Planning Issues
- 6. Next Meeting Date March, 2014
- 7. Adjournment

Minutes of the Crater Planning Directors meeting held on Friday, January 10, 2014 in the Crater PDC Conference Room, 1964 Wakefield Street, Petersburg, Virginia.

Attendees: Jennifer Wampler, Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation; Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie County; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Rhonda Russell, Surry County; Fritz Brandt, Cory Reisch, Fort Lee; Tennille Wade, Petersburg; Brian Thrower, Emporia; Mark Bittner, Crater PDC.

#### Welcome and Introductions

Mark Bittner called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

#### Beaches to Bluegrass Trail

Ms. Wampler, Trails Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, presented information on the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail. This planned trail would span the State of Virginia from Cumberland Gap to Virginia Beach.

Ms. Wampler shared specific information on the trail's possible path through the Crater PDC. The final alignment is not set and she wanted input from local representatives to make the best possible trail. The Crater PDC consensus was, almost any alignment would be acceptable, provided it went through the City of Emporia. This is a crossroads city and having the trail go through it could benefit many. Ms. Wampler stated DCR views Emporia as a "Gateway City" for the trail and is in agreement the trail should run through it.

#### Southern Crater Region Solid Waste Plan

Mr. Bittner stated the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) had informed the Crater PDC the 5-year anniversary of the approved <u>Southern Crater Region Solid Waste</u> <u>Management Plan</u> was due on February 26, 2014. On or before that date, the PDC was required to submit a letter certifying the following plan elements have been maintained and updated:

- 1. Waste generation estimates are current
- 2. Schedule increments have been met
- 3. A projected 20-year waste management capacity remains available or projects otherwise are on schedule to meet the unit's solid waste needs

Mr. Bittner informed local representatives he would be contacting them in the near future to obtain the necessary information.

#### **Rural Transportation Planning**

Mr. Bittner gave a brief update on current Rural Transportation activities for 2014. Mr. Bittner stated priority lists had been submitted by all localities. Mr. Bittner stated that, the formal prioritization process had begun and the entire list of projects would be examined as a single group.

#### Other Local and Regional Planning Issues

Mr. Bittner offered to let attendees share any other planning issues they wished. Ms. Russell asked about stormwater regulation implementation. The consensus was most localities were finalizing ordinances on this subject. Mr. Thrower asked if other localities were assigning addresses to cell towers. Dinwiddie County stated they were.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for March, 2014.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

#### **Crater Planning Directors Meeting**

#### Crater PDC Conference Room 1964 Wakefield Street Petersburg, Virginia

#### Noon, Friday, March 14, 2014

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. VCU Development Tracker Tom Jacobson – Adjunct Professor
- 3. Fort Lee Joint Land Use Study Regional GIS Database
- 4. Southern Crater Region Solid Waste Plan Current Status Update
- 5. Rural Transportation Planning Update
- 6. Other Local and Regional Planning Issues
- 7. Next Meeting Date May/June, 2014
- 8. Adjournment

Minutes of the Crater Planning Directors meeting held on Friday, March 14, 2014 in the Crater PDC Conference Room, 1964 Wakefield Street, Petersburg, Virginia.

Attendees: Tom Jacobson, VCU; Mark Bassett, Dinwiddie County; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Doug Miles, Matt Blaes, Prince George County; Fritz Brandt, Debbie Kilpatrick, Fort Lee; Dirona Belton, Michelle Peters, Petersburg; Brian Thrower, Emporia; Matt Rowe, Charles City County; Mike Tompkins, Chesterfield County; Denny Morris, Mark Bittner, Crater PDC.

#### Welcome and Introductions

Mark Bittner called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

#### VCU Development Tracker

Mr. Jacobson, Adjunct Professor for Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), presented information on the VCU Development Tracker Program. VCU is attempting to obtain essential development data for localities in the Richmond MSA, including all localities in the Crater PDC. The purpose is to provide detailed and accurate information on development location, inter-relationships, and trends over time. The collected database will be available for local governments; developers, realtors, and other businesses; and citizens to assist in their development and location decisions.

Mr. Bittner stated the Crater PDC would be assisting VCU with this effort. The PDC would begin contacting its localities to request the necessary information and then transfer it to VCU.

#### Fort Lee Joint Land Use Study

Mr. Bittner stated the completed Fort Lee Joint Land Use Study had been posted for review on the Internet ( www.fortlee-jlus.com ). Comments or questions should be directed to the PDC.

#### Southern Crater Region Solid Waste Plan

Mr. Bittner stated the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) had originally informed the Crater PDC the 5-year anniversary of the approved Southern Crater Region Solid Waste Management Plan was due on February 26, 2014. Mr. Bittner stated DEQ had recently extended this due date because of confusion on reporting requirements.

Mr. Bittner stated he was in the process of obtaining the necessary information and would inform local representatives when everything was complete.

#### **Rural Transportation Planning**

Mr. Bittner gave a brief update on current Rural Transportation activities for 2014. Mr. Bittner stated the formal prioritization process was underway and the entire list of projects was being examined as a single group. Rural localities were now being asked to rank those projects on a regional basis. Rankings were due on May 9, 2014.

#### Other Local and Regional Planning Issues

Mr. Bittner offered to let attendees share any other planning issues they wished. There were no comments.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for June, 2014.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.

#### **Crater Planning Directors Meeting**

#### Crater PDC Conference Room 1964 Wakefield Street Petersburg, Virginia

#### Noon, Wednesday, June 25, 2014

#### **AGENDA**

- 1. Welcome and Introductions
- 2. VCU Development Tracker Update Tom Jacobson – Adjunct Professor
- Beaches to Bluegrass Trail Update
   Jennifer Wampler Trails Coordinator
   Virginia DCR
   http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational\_planning/trailb2b.shtml
- 4. Rural Transportation Planning
  Update
  <a href="http://www.craterpdc.org/transportation/webmap\_rural/ruralwebmap.htm">http://www.craterpdc.org/transportation/webmap\_rural/ruralwebmap.htm</a>
- 5. Energy Savings Performance Workshop Performance Contracting Review of June 19 Meeting <a href="http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DE/PerformanceContractingSupport.shtml">http://www.dmme.virginia.gov/DE/PerformanceContractingSupport.shtml</a>
- 6. FOLAR Strategic Planning Report Review of Final Report
- 7. Urban Development Areas (UDA) Strategic Growth Areas (SGA) Creation of GIS Layer
- 8. Chesapeake Bay Agreement Review <a href="http://www.chesapeakebay.net/chesapeakebaywatershedagreement/page">http://www.chesapeakebay.net/chesapeakebaywatershedagreement/page</a>
- 9. Other Local and Regional Planning Issues
- 10. Next Meeting Date August/September, 2014
- 11. Adjournment

Minutes of the Crater Planning Directors meeting held on Wednesday, June 25, 2014 in the Crater PDC Conference Room, 1964 Wakefield Street, Petersburg, Virginia.

Attendees: Jennifer Wampler, Virginia DCR; Tom Jacobson, VCU; Tevya Griffin, Hopewell County; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Doug Miles, Prince George County; Fritz Brandt, Coreinne Reisch, Fort Lee; Tennille Wade, Petersburg; Brian Thrower, Emporia; Rhonda Russell, Surry County; Mark Bittner, Crater PDC.

#### Welcome and Introductions

Mark Bittner called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

#### VCU Development Tracker

Mr. Jacobson, Adjunct Professor for Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU), presented an update on the VCU Development Tracker Program. Several localities had provided data. Some localities had not yet responded.

Mr. Bittner stated the Crater PDC would continue to assist VCU with this effort. The PDC would continue contacting the non-responsive localities to request the necessary information and then transfer it to VCU.

#### Beaches to Bluegrass Trail

Ms. Wampler, Trails Coordinator for the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, presented an update on the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail. This planned trail would span the State of Virginia from Cumberland Gap to Virginia Beach.

Ms. Wampler shared letters of support that had been obtained from other PDCs and localities. Mr. Bittner stated a letter of support was forthcoming from the Crater PDC.

#### Rural Transportation Planning

Mr. Bittner gave a brief update on current Rural Transportation activities for 2014. Mr. Bittner stated the formal prioritization process was complete and the Crater PDC was preparing its final submittal to VDOT.

#### Energy Savings Performance Workshop – Performance Contracting

Mr. Bittner stated the Crater PDC recently held a workshop on Performance Contracting. This is a way for localities to examine their facilities for potential energy savings. The workshop was sponsored by the Virginia Department of Mines, Minerals, and Energy.

#### FOLAR Strategic Planning Report

Mr. Bittner presented the recently completed FOLAR Strategic Plan. Implementation of this plan was underway. The first major step would be hiring part-time staff to handle administrative duties for FOLAR. This person would work out of the Crater PDC offices.

#### <u>Urban Development Areas</u>

Mr. Bittner stated VDOT was asking for GIS data pertaining to designated Urban Development Areas (UDAs). None of the Crater PDC localities present had UDAs designated in their Comprehensive Plans.

#### Chesapeake Bay Agreement Review

Mr. Bittner presented details on the recently signed Chesapeake Bay Agreement. They included the following:

- New York, West Virginia, and Delaware were now full partners
- The agreement stated it was voluntary
- Changing environmental conditions were expected
- Create or establish 85,000 acres of wetlands and enhance the function of 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands
- Protect an additional two million acres of land throughout the watershed (total watershed is about 41 million acres)
- Add 300 new public access sites

#### Other Local and Regional Planning Issues

Mr. Bittner offered to let attendees share any other planning issues they wished. There were no comments.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for August or September, 2014.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.



600 East Main Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor Richmond, Virginia 23219 (804) 786-6124

Agenda Crater Planning District Wednesday, September 24, 2014 12:00 – 2:00 p.m.

- 1) Introduction of VOP
  - a. First Lady video
  - b. PowerPoint of final VOP
  - c. Online document
- 2) Presentation on Online Mapper
- 3) Present the regional chapter overview
- 4) Use of VOP
  - a. Ways they are using the VOP
  - b. Identify regional accomplishments featured projects
  - c. Regional updates/ additions
- 5) Coordinate annual map updates. Contact Robbie Rhur, Environmental Program Planner (Robbie.rhur@dcr.virginia.gov)
- 6) Additional DCR assistance (Survey monkey link)
- 7) Other follow-up

Minutes of the Crater Planning Directors meeting held on Wednesday, September 24, 2014 in the Crater PDC Conference Room, 1964 Wakefield Street, Petersburg, Virginia.

Attendees: Janit Llewelyn, Lynn Crump, Virginia DCR; V'lent Lassiter, Virginia DEQ; Wayne Walton, Wendy Austin, Richard Taylor, FOLAR; George Schanzenbacher, Colonial Heights; Doug Miles, Keith Rotzoll, Prince George County; Cory Reisch, Shelley Davis, Fort Lee; Kathleen Morgan, Petersburg; Brian Thrower, Emporia; Jo Turek, Hopewell; Mark Bittner, Crater PDC.

#### Welcome and Introductions

Mark Bittner called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

#### Virginia Outdoors Plan Annual Update

Mr. Bittner stated the entire agenda would be devoted to the annual update of the Virginia Outdoors Plan (VOP). Ms. Llewelyn and Ms. Crump of Virginia DCR presented the details of the VOP within the Crater PDC boundaries. They stated meetings like this would be held in every Virginia PDC on an annual basis. They then asked for additional information from local representatives.

#### Other Local and Regional Planning Issues

Mr. Bittner offered to let attendees share any other planning issues they wished. There were no comments.

#### Next Meeting Date

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December, 2014.

#### Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.



# **Beaches to Bluegrass Trail**



PLANNING + DESIGN



# Agenda

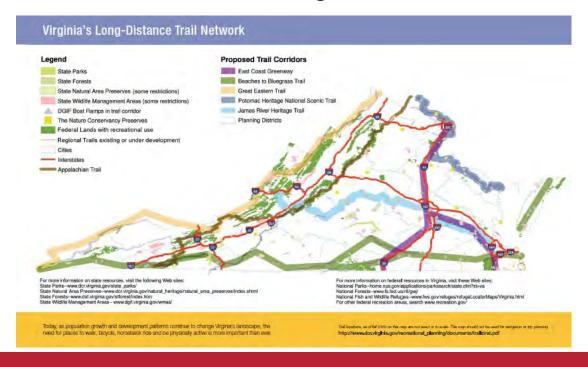
- 1. Introduction
- 2. Background
- 3. Overview of the Project
- 4. Potential Economic Benefits
- 5. Next Steps
- 6. Questions



## Introduction

## Beaches to Bluegrass Trail

- Cross State Trail connecting Virginia to the Cumberland Gap
- Provides transportation and recreation options for communities along the trail and near the trail
- One of six trunkline routes in Virginia





## Introduction

## **Project Team**

- Virginia Department of Transportation, Lead Agency
- Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation.
   Partner agency
- HNTB, lead consultant
- Alta Planning + Design, bicycle, pedestrian, trail specialist











## **Trails Program Vision**

active communities and open space linked by trails and greenways that connect individuals, children and their families to nature and to each other





## Virginia's Long-Distance Trail Network Goals

- Goal 1: Enhance access to the outdoors through the development of a trails network that
  promotes healthy recreation and connects citizens including children and families to Virginia's
  diverse open space and natural landscapes.
- Goal 2: Improve linkages between communities and key tourist destinations in both rural and urban areas to promote regional outdoor recreation and heritage tourism initiatives, support local economies, and provide economic stimuli for small business start-ups and entrepreneurial expansion.
- Goal 3: Create the foundation of a statewide system of interconnected open space corridor through which trails traverse, in order to **support long-term protection of Virginia's "green infrastructure"** and the ecological services it provides.
- Goal 4: Integrate trails as a critical component in Virginia's transportation infrastructure, in order to provide efficient and convenient non-motorized connections to neighborhoods, schools, community facilities, and employment centers.
- Goal 5: Educate citizens about the trail network's social, ecological, transportation, and wellness benefits, and foster educational pursuits through environmental research, multi-cultural programs, and "outdoor classrooms."



## Beaches to Bluegrass Trail Draft Vision

A long-distance, multi-use trail that attracts visitors from all over the East Coast while serving the daily recreation and alternative transportation needs of communities between the Cumberland Gap and the Chesapeake Bay—a showcase for the richly diverse ecology, culture, and history of Southern Virginia preserved in a greenway for future generations.



## Beaches to Bluegrass Trail Draft Goals

- Establish a coalition of regional stakeholders and advocates to develop, promote and manage a connected, sustainable trail system across the southern length of Virginia
- If possible, use former railroad corridor or other shared-use pathways to provide a connected off-road corridor for hikers, equestrians and bicyclists; braided trail segments and road routes may be utilized for interim connections
- Provide consistency along the route through branding and universal development and management guidelines
- Provide essential services at reasonable intervals through cooperative efforts
- Promote trail towns, places and organizations that serve trail users



# 1979 Virginia Outdoors Plan





# Most popular activities

Activity	% of hous	seholds 2011
Walking for pleasure	71.7	82,2
Visiting parks (local, state, natl.)	4.2	50.6
Visiting historic areas	56.1	44.2
Swimming/pool	44.0 (all)	43.1
Sunbathing/relaxing on a beach	36.4	41.3
Swimming/beach	44.0 (all)	38.3
Jogging/running	24.1	33.6
Using a playground	25.0	29.9
Picnicking away from home	26.1	28.0
Visiting gardens/arboretums	21.6	25.6



## Public Perception of What Outdoor Recreation Facilities are Most Needed

Activity	% of hou	
	2006	2011
Hiking and walking trails	49.0	67.6
State waters: fishing, swimming, beach	50.2	59.6
Natural areas	42.0	55.1
Bicycling trails	39.7	54.2
Historic areas	33.3	50.8
Canoeing, kayaking	+	46.4
Wildlife watching and nature study		44.8
Playing fields for outdoor sports	35.5	40.0
Public pools		38.3
Tennis and basketball courts	25.4	31.7

CSR-UVA and Virginia DCR: The 2011 Virginia Outdoor Demand Survey



#### Most-Needed Outdoor Recreation

#### Crater Recreational Planning Region

% of households in

activity	region	state
Public access to state waters for fishing, swimming and beach use	59	60
Trails for hiking and walking	58	68
Trails for bicycling	54	54
Trails for wildlife watching and nature study	49	45
Historic areas	40	51
Public pools	40	38
Playing fields for outdoor sports (soft- ball, baseball, football and soccer)	38	40
Public access to state waters for nonmotorized boating (canoeing or kayaking)	38	46
Natural areas	37	55
Trails for horseback riding	34	22
Outdoor playing courts for tennis and basketball	32	32
Public access to state waters for motorized boating	27	22
Trails for motorized off-road vehicles	27	17
Other	5	6

## 2011 Virginia Outdoors Survey

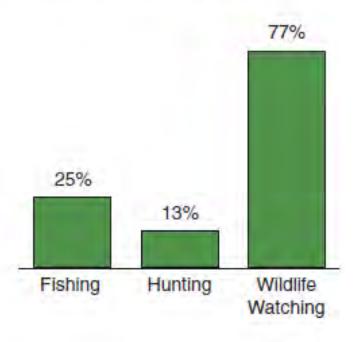


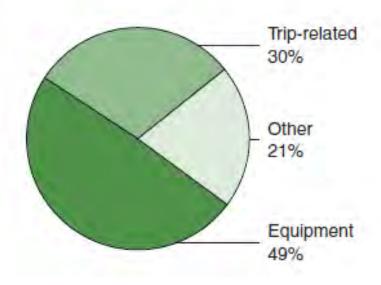
### Percent of Total Participants by Activity

(Total: 3.3 million participants)

# Wildlife-Related Recreation Expenditures in Virginia (Total: 62.5 billion)

(Total: \$3.5 billion)





### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau

2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation-Virginia



# Selected Characteristics of Virginia Resident Anglers, Hunters and Wildlife Watchers 2011

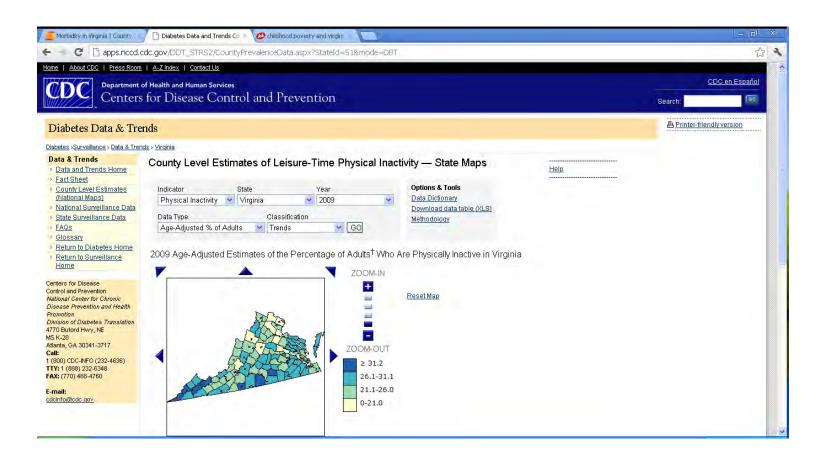
	Anglers	Hunters	Wildlife Watching
	Percent who Participated		
Male	18	10	33
Female	5		39

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Census Bureau

2011 National Survey of Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife-Associated Recreation-Virginia

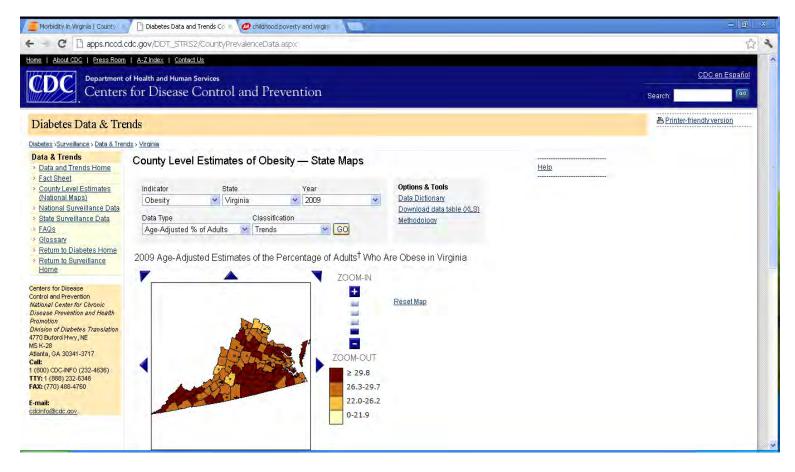


# **Inactivity in Virginia**





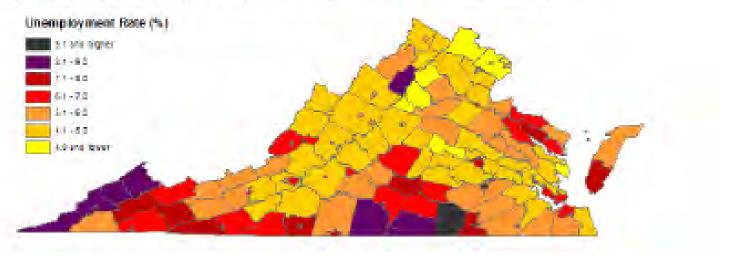
# **Obesity in Virginia**





# **Unemployment in Virginia**

Unemployment Rates by County in Virginia, November 2013





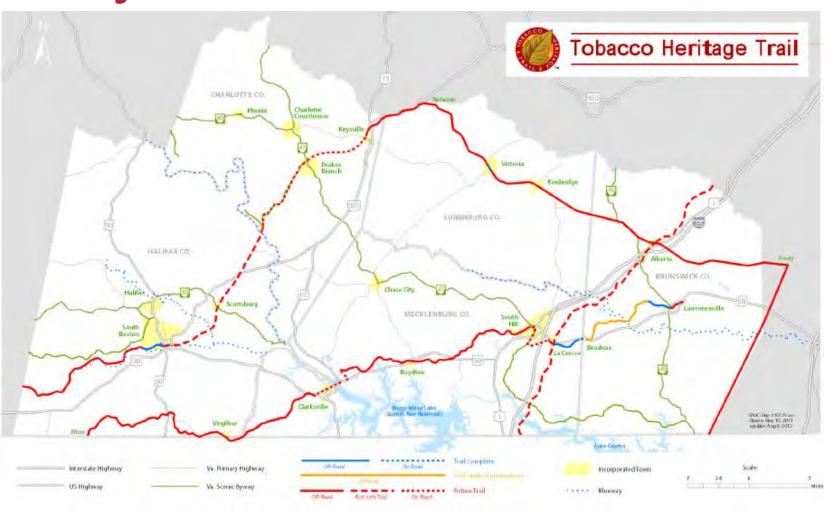
# **Project**



More than 400 miles long, the Beaches to Bluegrass Trail will connect communities across southern Virginia and provide convenient recreational and transportation opportunities to thousands of Virginians

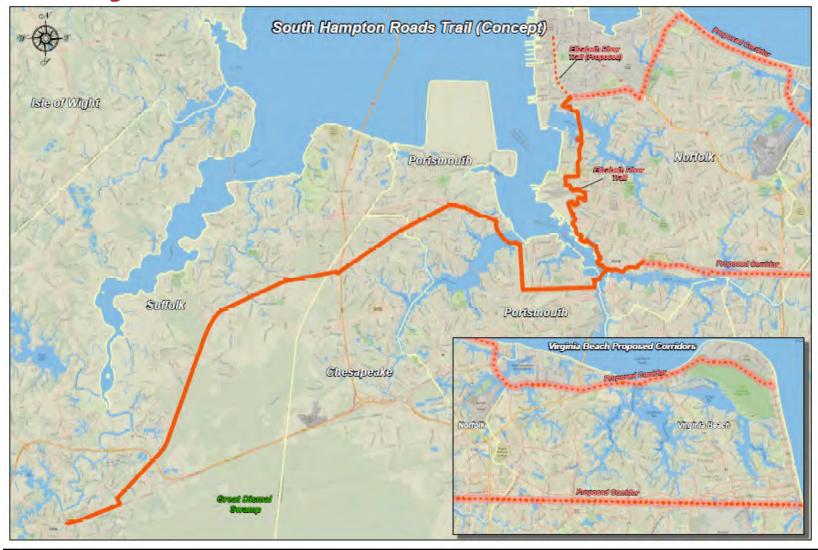


# **Project**





# **Project**





# **Project**

## Potential Trail Western/Mountain Segments

- Danville Riverwalk
- Dick and Willie Passage, Fieldale Trail, Smith River Trail
- Trails along the <u>Philpott Reservoir</u>
- New River Trail State Park and Grayson Highlands State Park
- Forest Service roads and trails
- The <u>Virginia Creeper Trail</u>
- Wilderness Road State Park







# **Long-Distance Trails**

Long Distance Trails
 create jobs, boost
 economies of rural and
 urban areas, attract
 tourists and support small
 businesses





870-mile footpath follows Wales' coastline

Invested \$21 million \$4.8 million back into the economy first year



## **Other Cross State Trails**

NC Mountains-to-Sea Trail

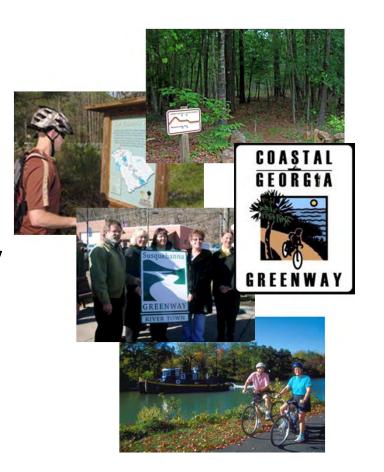
SC Palmetto Trail

GA Coastal Georgia Greenway

PA Susquehanna River Greenway

NY Erie Canalway Trail

MI Belle Isle to Wisconsin Trail





## **Economic Benefits of Trails**

- Reduce cost of public services
- Improve health and wellness
- Attract tourists, boost local economy
- Improve real estate values
- Make communities more livable
- Attract business and industry





## **Economic Benefits of Trails**

#### **Trail Towns**

- Trails build strong, economically vital communities
- Trails provide communities with a valuable amenity
- Trails revitalize neighborhoods
- Trails build local businesses
- Trails provide facilities for fundraisers







# **Economic Benefits of Cycling**

- Bicycling industry contributes \$133 billion a year to the U.S. Economy
- Supports 1.1 million jobs
- Generates \$17.7 billion in federal, state and local taxes
- Bicycle tourists spend \$47 billion on meals, transportation and lodging

Source: League of American Cyclists 2009







# **Bicycle Tourism**

- Reasonable tour ride is 25-50 miles, a few will go farther
- Beaches to Bluegrass tours: 5 to 10 days
- Average expenditure per cyclists: \$20/visit, overnight travels \$100+/night
- Projected annual use for Beaches to Bluegrass could exceed 1 million





## **Economic Benefits of Trails**

## Equestrians

- Horse industry has a \$1.2 billion impact on the Virginia Economy
- Generated over \$65 million in state and local taxes in 2010
- More than 13,000 horse farms in the Commonwealth

a 23 % increase since 2007





## **Health and Wellness Benefits**

- Virginia spends over \$100 billion on health care
- Obesity is an epidemic
- CDC and Surgeon General encourage communities and states to build more trails
- Create active living communities





# Surgeon General's Call to Action on Walking

MARCH 27, 2013, 12:01 AM

#### Easing Brain Fatigue With a Walk in the Park

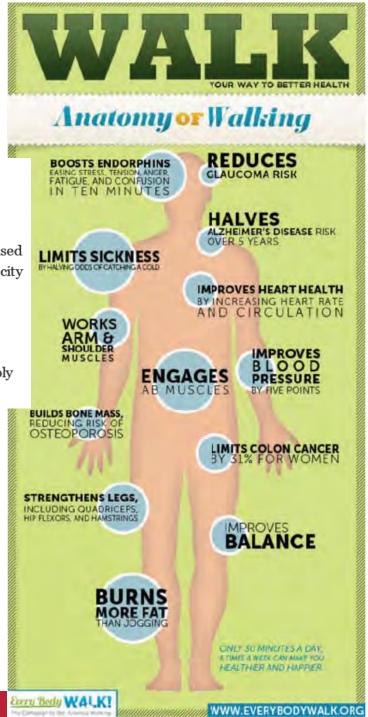
By GRETCHEN REYNOLDS

Scientists have known for some time that the human brain's ability to stay calm and focused is limited and can be overwhelmed by the constant noise and hectic, jangling demands of city living, sometimes resulting in a condition informally known as brain fatigue.

With brain fatigue, you are easily distracted, forgetful and mentally flighty — or, in other words, me.

But an innovative new study from Scotland suggests that you can ease brain fatigue simply by strolling through a leafy park.

"Walking is like medicine for my patients," Dr. Bob Sallis—a Kaiser Permanente family practitioner from Fontana, California—told a group of health, business, education, transportation and government leaders who came together in Washington, D.C. in December to advance a national walking movement. Dr. Sallis described the "linear relationship" between how much time his patients spend walking and their overall health after he prescribes regular walks. "If walking was a pill or surgical procedure, it would be on 60 Minutes."



# **Environmental Barriers to Walking**

Rank	Never Walkers	Occasional Walkers	Regular Walkers
1	No walk/jog trails – 65.7%	No walk/jog trails – 61.3%	No walk/jog trails – 56.0%
2	Don't see people exercising – 63.5%	Don't see people exercising – 56.2%	Don't see people exercising – 51.6%
3	Unattended dogs – 44.8%	Hills – 43.2%	Heavy traffic – 44.6%
4	Heavy traffic – 43.9%	Heavy traffic – 42.9%	Hills – 43.9%
5	No sidewalks – 43.4%	Unattended dogs – 42.2%	Unattended dogs – 39.9%

Never walkers were significantly more likely to report no walk/jog trails and not seeing other people exercising in their neighborhood than were regular walkers

Eyler AA et al. Med Sci Sports Exerc. 2003



## **Environmental Benefits**

Virginia can conserve and protect our environment and native biodiversity by linking residents to a network of conserved and protected lands, from the mountains to the coast





## **Environmental Benefits**

- Beaches to
   Bluegrass will link
   trail users to
   numerous state and
   Federal forests,
   state and local parks
- The trail promotes human-powered, non-polluting, tourism-based outdoor recreation







# What is in it for You?

- Help with implementing local trails
- Local trails become part of a bigger plan
- This Plan and its recommendations can be used to support funding applications







# **Next Steps**

- Further outreach to stakeholders and public (On going)
- Prepare and Present Draft Plan(Spring)
- Develop final Plan (Summer)

### Stay Involved!

http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/beaches\_to\_bluegrass\_conceptual\_trail\_plan.asp



# **Questions?**

















#### CRATER PLANNING DISTRICT COMMISSION

Monument Professional Building • 1964 Wakefield Street • Post Office Box 1808 • Petersburg, Virginia 23805 PHONE: (804) 861-1666 • FAX: 804-732-8972 • E-MAIL: info@craterpdc.org • WEBSITE: www.craterpdc.org

Dennis K. Morris, Executive Director

June 27, 2014

Jennifer Wampler Trails Coordinator Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation 600 E. Main St, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor Richmond, VA 23219

RE: Beaches To Bluegrass Trail Support

Dear Ms. Wampler:

The Beaches to Bluegrass Trail is a proposed Statewide, multi-use trail which will connect the Cumberland Gap to Virginia Beach through southern Virginia and localities of the Crater Planning District Commission (CPDC). The CPDC supports the proposed Beaches to Bluegrass Trail as it will promote recreation, tourism, healthy lifestyles, and connectivity between areas of natural resources throughout the State as well as our region.

The CPDC also supports an alignment that would bring the trail through the City of Emporia. This is a crossroads for the southern CPDC. Emporia would offer many amenities for trail users.

The CPDC also supports exploring potential alignments through Sussex County. Representatives of Sussex have expressed this desire.

y How

The CPDC will continue to work with local, regional, and state partners to refine the preferred Beaches To Bluegrass route through the CPDC which will connect with the planned trail segments in adjacent regions.

Sincerely,

Dennis K. Morris
Executive Director



DMME in collaboration with supporting grant partners invites you to:

Local Government Seminar: Opportunities with Energy Savings Performance Contracting – "An Energy Manager's Perspective"

Thursday June 19, 12-3pm
Crater PDC Conference Room
1964 Wakefield Street, Petersburg, VA
Lunch Provided!

Come hear from your peers, learn about best practices, and speak with unbiased experts

RSVP to alex@leap-va.org

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH











# Crater PDC

Planning Directors Meeting

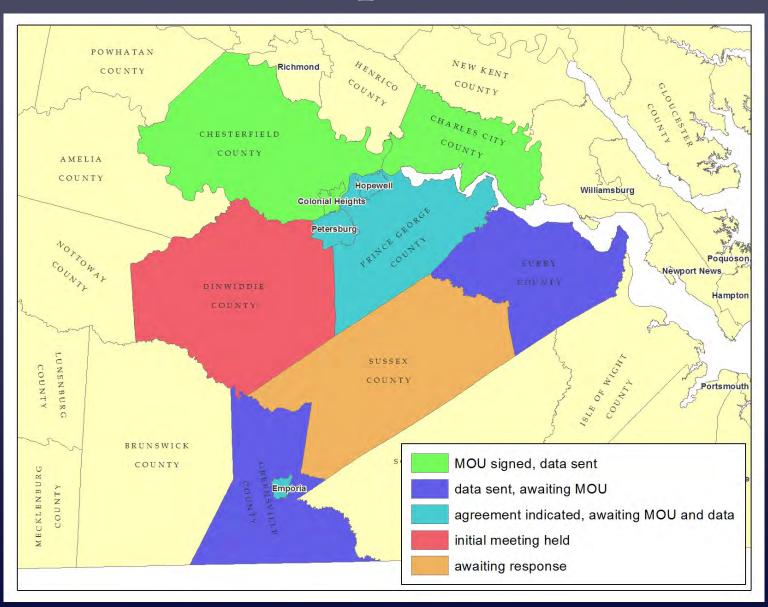
June 25, 2014

# VCU Development Tracker

## <u>Purpose</u>

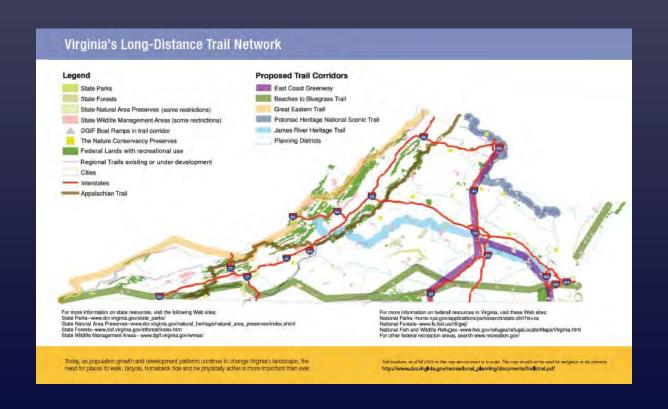
Assemble and monitor key land use and development data to assist governments, businesses and citizens throughout the Richmond Metropolitan Area in their development and location decisions.

# VCU Development Tracker

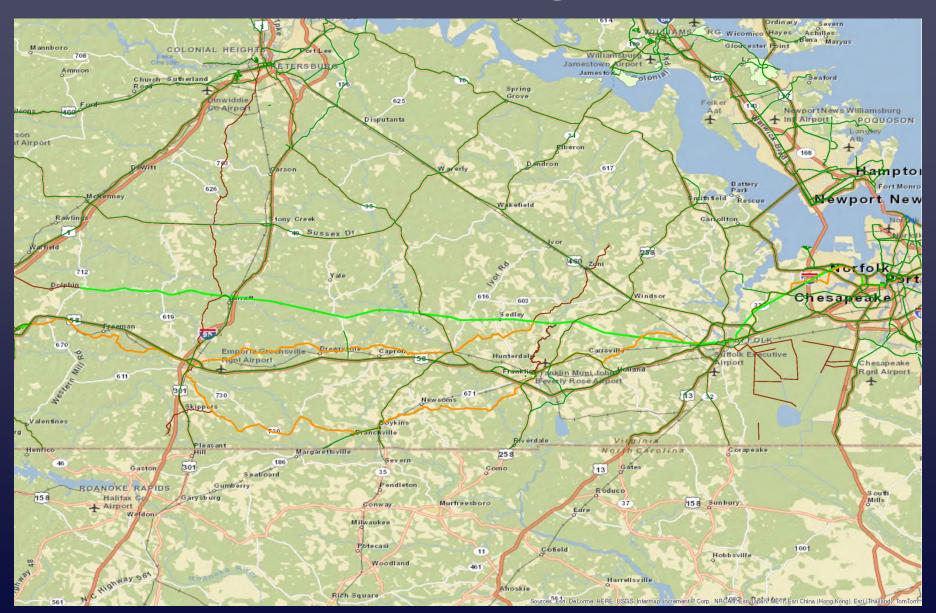


# Beaches to Bluegrass Trail

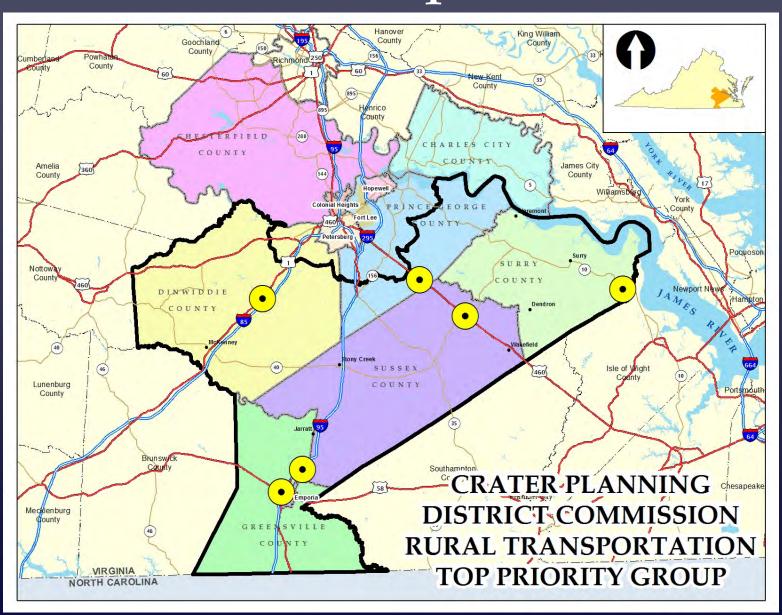
- Cross State Trail connecting Virginia to the Cumberland Gap
- Provides transportation and recreation options for communities along the trail and near the trail
- One of six trunkline routes in Virginia



# Beaches to Bluegrass Trail



# Rural Transportation



# Performance Contracting

- Legislation passed in 2001
- Performance contracting allows you to green/upgrade your facilities and pay for the upgrades by reallocating existing energy dollars
- Using a self funding project frees up existing \$ to fund other unfunded needs
- General Services / Facilities Management are lead staff

Charlie Barksdale
Utilities & Performance Contracting Manager
Department of Mines, Minerals & Energy
Charlie.Barksdale@dmme.Virginia.Gov
804-840-1689

# FOLAR Strategic Planning Report

- Review and revise mission statement
- Improve organizational structure
- Become proactive in marketing and communications
- Begin formalized Annual Fund program
- Secure part-time Executive Director

# Urban Development Areas

Urban Development Area (UDA) Grant Program (2010), administered by VDOT, established to:

- provide assistance to local governments to analyze future growth patterns,
- plan for and designate at least one UDA in their comprehensive plans, and
- revise applicable local ordinances to incorporate the principles of traditional neighborhood design.

VDOT has asked for GIS layer of all identified UDAs by July 8, 2014.

May also include Strategic Growth Areas (SGA).

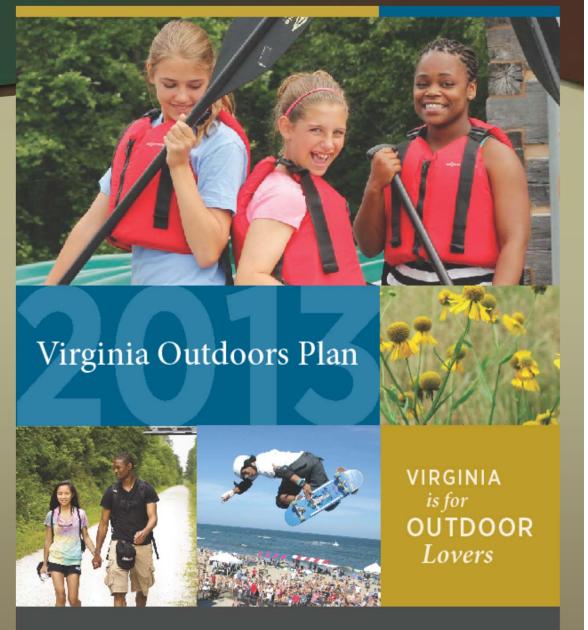
# Chesapeake Bay Agreement

- Signed June 16, 2014
- Now includes New York, West Virginia and Delaware as full partners
- "The signatories to this voluntary Agreement commit to achieving the restoration and protection of the Chesapeake Bay watershed and its living resources." (Preamble)
- "Anticipate changing conditions, including long-term trends in sea level, temperature, precipitation, land use and other variables." (Page 2 Principles)
- "Create or reestablish 85,000 acres of tidal and non-tidal wetlands and enhance the function of an additional 150,000 acres of degraded wetlands by 2025." (Vital Habitats Goals & Outcomes)
- "By 2025, protect an additional two million acres of land throughout the watershed..." (Land Conservation Goals & Outcomes; total watershed is about 41 million acres)
- "By 2025, add 300 new public access sites..." (Public Access Goals & Outcomes)



# 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan

Virginia's 10th Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP)







# Input via Public Meetings

42 public meetings480 citizen participants

Identified outdoor recreation uses and trends within each region of the Commonwealth





# Input via e-mails and written comments



 121 citizen comments (e-mail & letters)

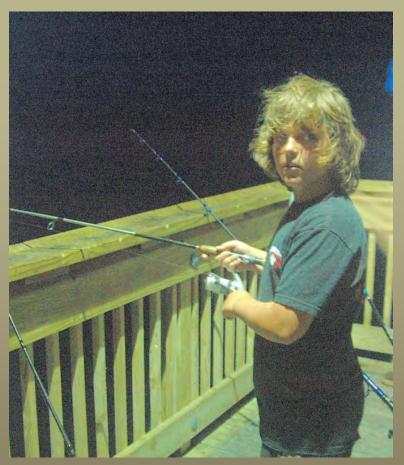
 Over 7 additional meetings held with special interest groups



# Virginia Outdoors Plan – Online

DCR website focus on Recreation Resource Planning

(Quarterly average 1000 website views)



http://www.dcr.virginia.gov/recreational\_planning/index.shtml



## **Land & Water Conservation Fund**

Guidance for grant fund allocation to state and local projects.



# **Outdoor Recreation Objective**

Guidance in accordance with §10.1-200 of the Code of Virginia.

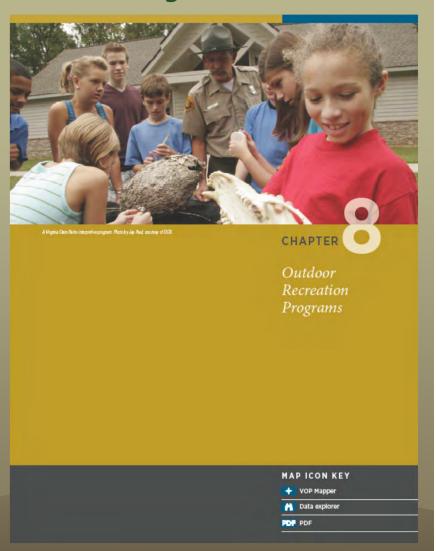




# **Outdoor Recreation Objective**

Key to meeting public demand for outdoor recreation is collaboration between

- -public providers
- -private providers
- -non-profit providers





# Outdoor Recreation Trails & Water Access





What citizens say is most needed outdoor recreation



## Outdoor Recreation Historic Resources





Second most popular outdoor recreation activity



#### **Outdoor Recreation**

#### Scenic

- Mabry Mill
- Scenic resources
- Scenic rivers
- Scenic byways







# Outdoor Recreation Environmental Education







- -Park and natural resource interpretation
- -Interpretive and environmental education
- -Outdoor education facilities & environmental educators



# Outdoor Recreation Partnering Agencies

- -Local parks and recreation
- -Virginia State Parks
- -Virginia Natural Heritage Program
- -Department of Game and Inland Fisheries
- -Department of Forestry
- -National Park Service
- -National forests
- -National wildlife refuges and fish hatcheries
- -U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- -Other interest groups and non-profits including: Scenic Virginia, American Society of Landscape Architects, American Planning Association



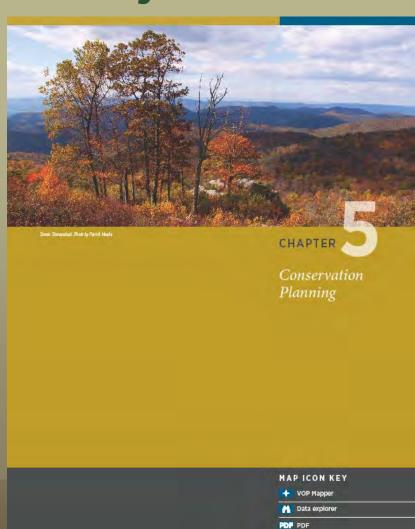




### **Land Conservation Objective**

Guidance for land protection through actions of the *Virginia Land Conservation Foundation* (VLCF)

In accordance with §10.1-1021 of the Code of Virginia





#### **Land Conservation**

"Should the state spend public funds to acquire land to prevent the loss of natural areas and open spaces?"

> Yes 73.2% No 9.2% Don't know 17.6%

"How important do you feel it is to protect Virginia's natural and open space resources?"

Very important 65.8% Important 27.6%

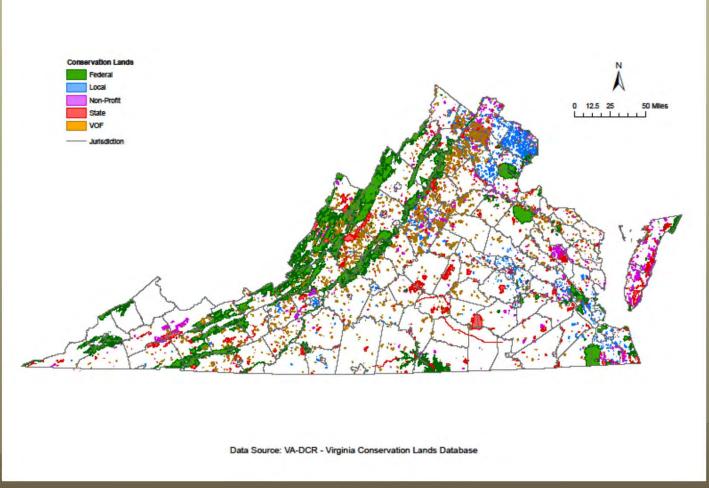
Not Important 1.3%

Don't know 5.4%





## **Conservation Lands**



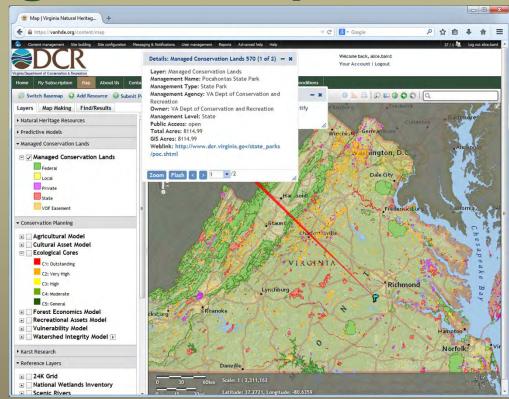


### Natural Heritage Data Explorer

The NHDE is a public, interactive, public website providing conservation planning, managed conservation lands, scenic rivers, trails and other layers.

NHDE provides subscribers with additional sensitive data pertaining to Natural Heritage resources for webbased, site specific environmental review.

https://vanhde.org/



Alice.baird@dcr.virginia.gov







# Results from the 2011 Virginia Outdoor Demand Survey

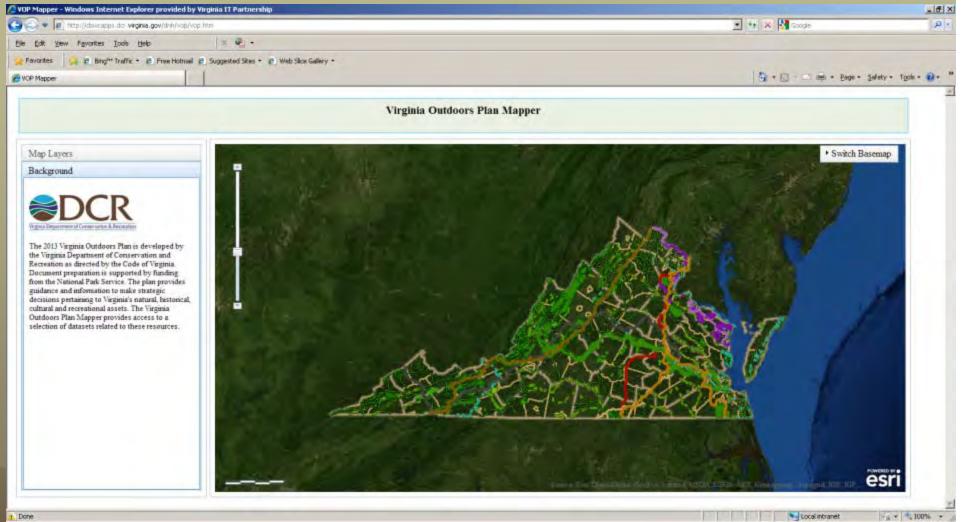
Center for Survey
Research, University of
Virginia
Virginia Department of
Conservation and
Recreation

16





# Tour the VOP Mapper





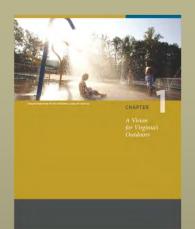
#### A New Face for the VOP

- Web-based with active links
- Interactive mapping component
- Annual engagement by staff with:
  - Planning Districts
  - Technical Advisory Committee
  - Localities to provide technical support & foster plan implementation

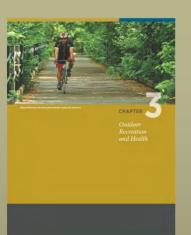


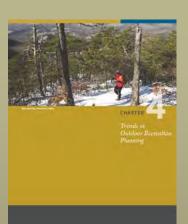


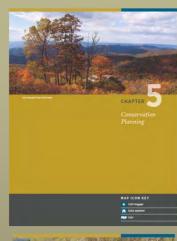
# Virginia Outdoors Plan - Chapters























#### **Regional Chapters**

Highlights Most Needed Recreation Featured Projects Conserved Lands



#### Webinar . Part one of a two-part series

#### The Virginia Outdoors Plan

Monday, October 6, 2014 · 11-11:45 a.m.

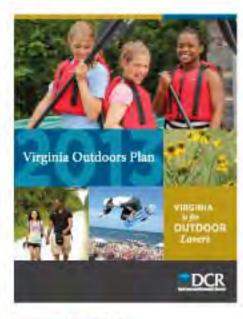
The Virginia Outdoors Plan offers data and tools to help you enhance outdoor recreation in your community.

Presenters Janit Llewellyn Allen and Lynn Crump will guide you through this important resource for outdoor recreation professionals, board members and students.

Register at www.vrps.com. Free for Virginia Recreation and Park Society (VRPS) members.\*

Part II: Economics of Outdoor Recreation to be offered Jan. 27, 2015. Attendance at both webinars is required to earn CEUs.

\* If you're not a VRPS member, consider joining at one of the following levels: Associate (\$25) or Professional (\$75). Visit www.vrps.com for information or contact Nancy Turnage at 804-730-9447 or vrps@vrps.com.





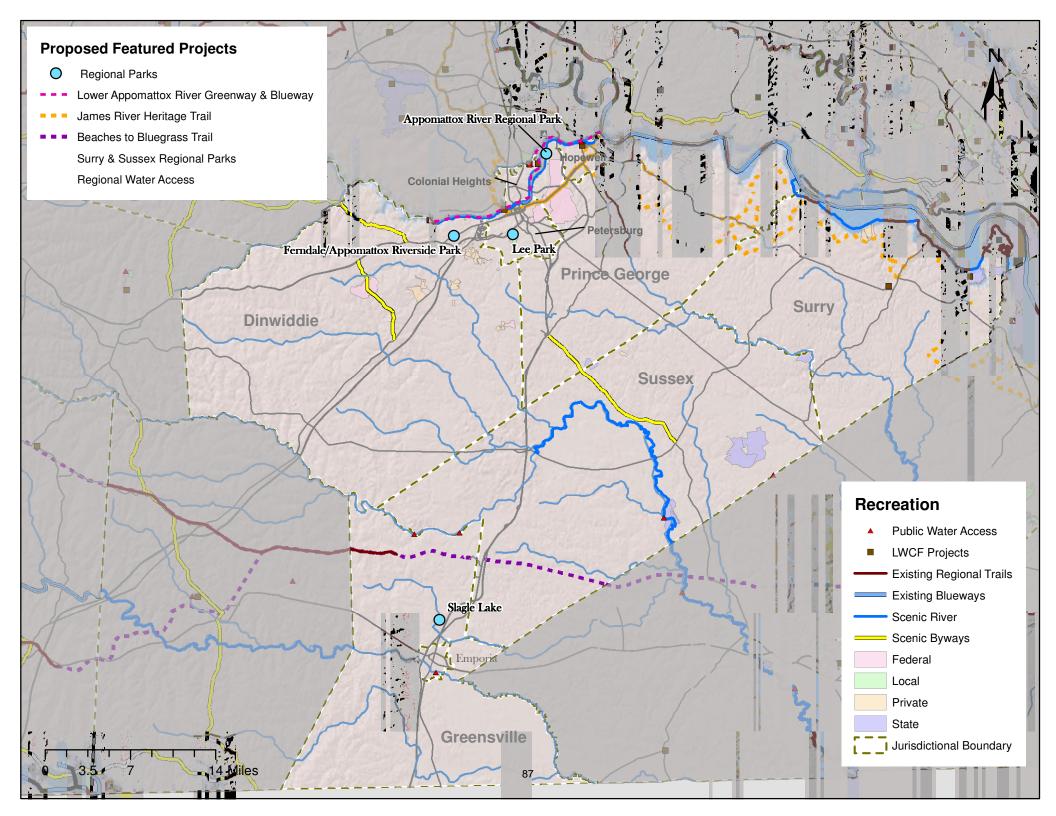


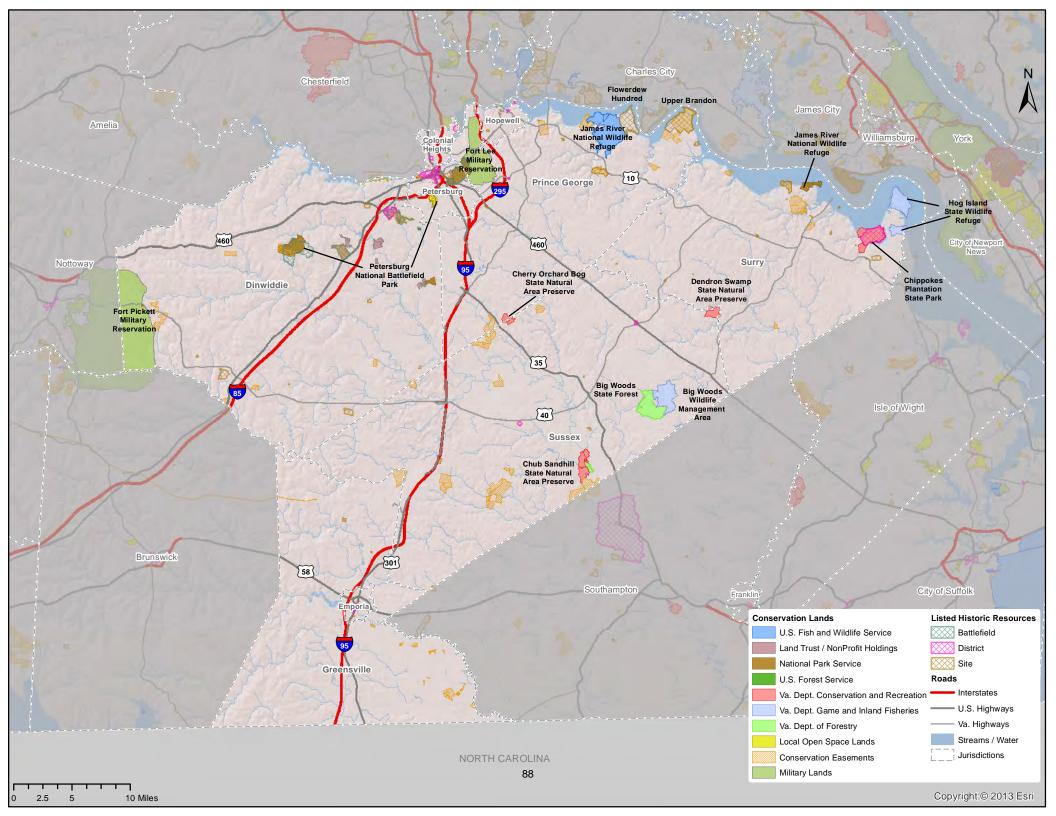


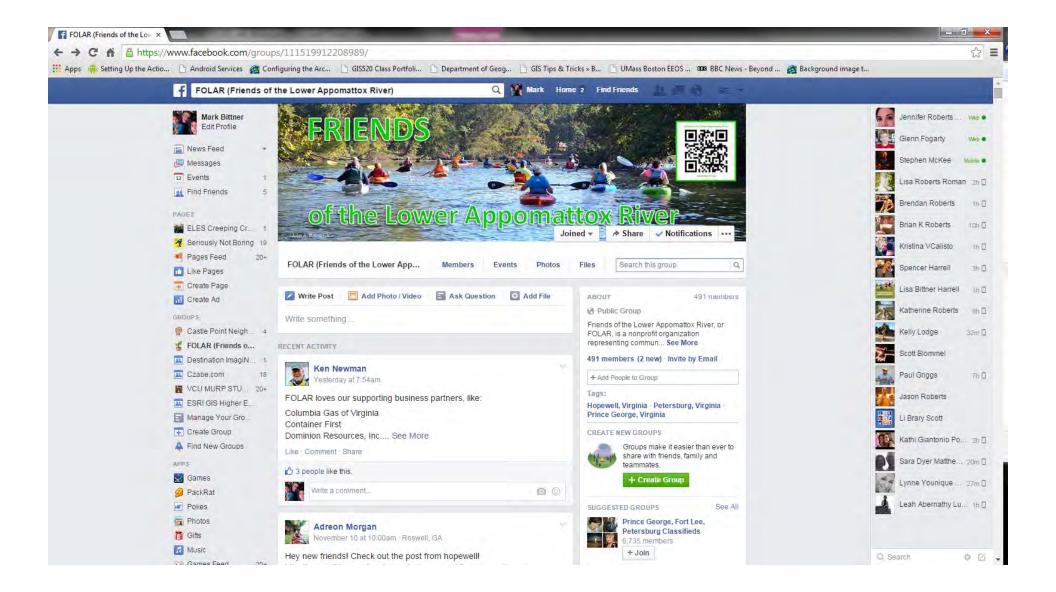
#### **Next Steps**

- Statewide webinar
- Annual regional updates







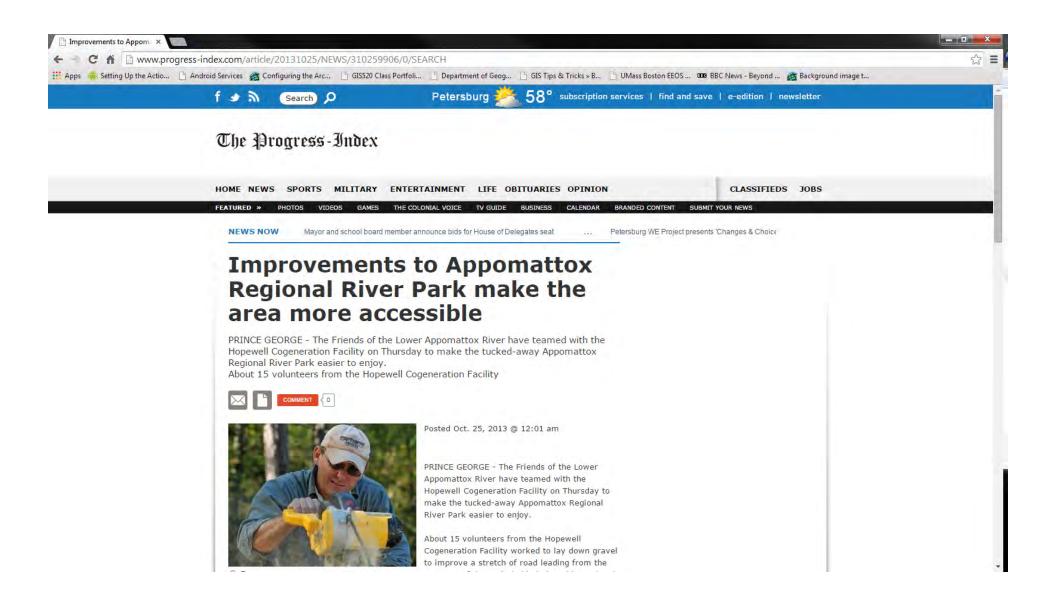






ARRP Clean Up & Repair – October 22, 2013









**FOLAR Annual Meeting – November 21, 2013** 









**Hopewell Marina Clean Up – February 8, 2014** 









Hopewell Marina Clean Up – February 22, 2014





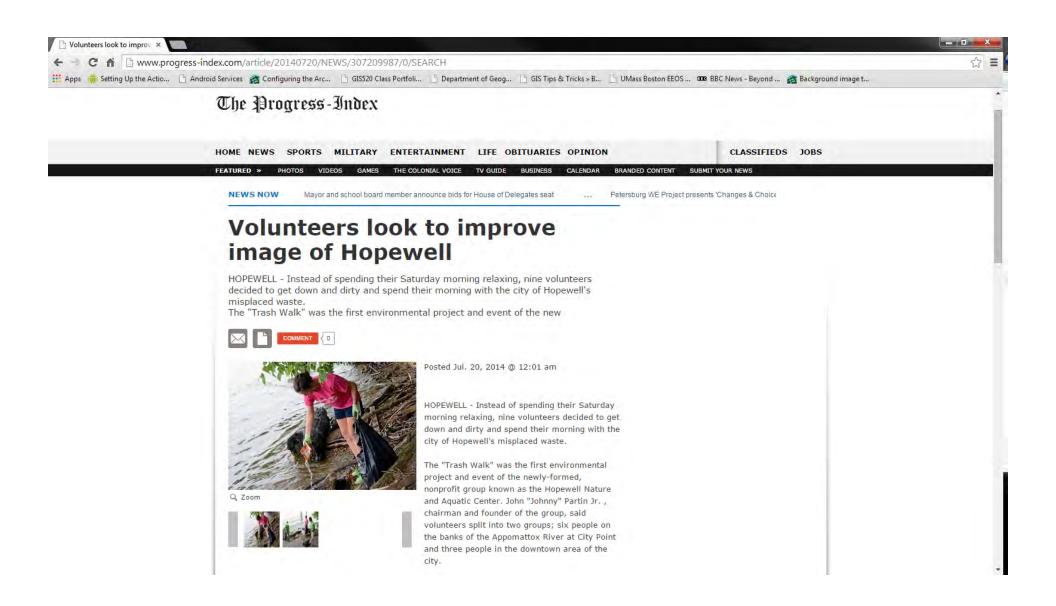


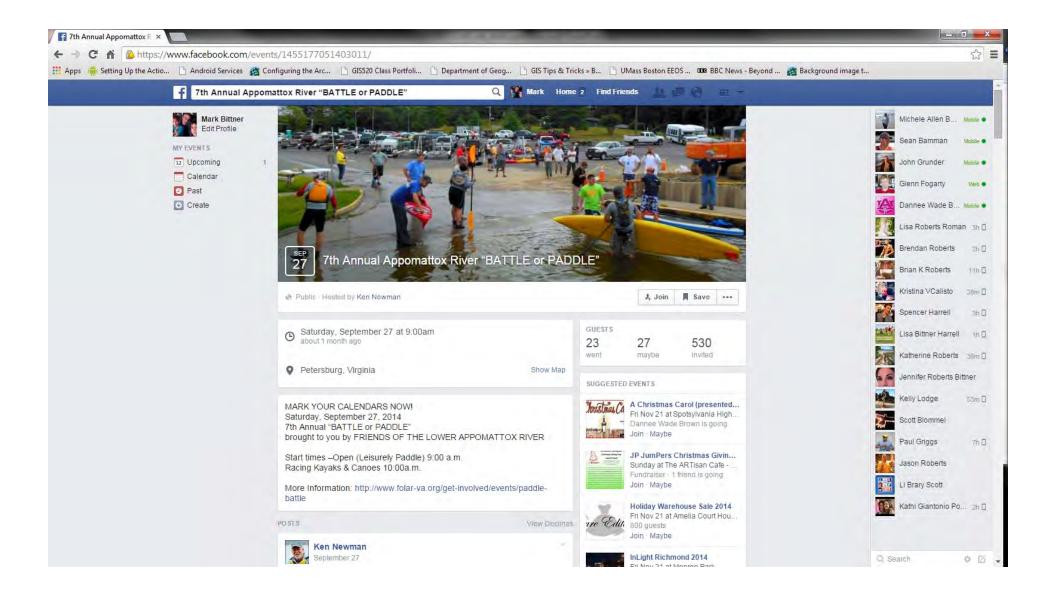


Annual Spring Clean Up – March 29, 2014











Battle or Paddle – September 27, 2014



